

February 27, 1976

in view?

SENATOR DWORAK: No, sir.

SENATOR KIME: That the Game Department wishes to buy with this two million or three million dollars?

SENATOR DWORAK: No, sir.

SENATOR KIME: What will they do then, just raise this three million dollars or hope to raise it and let it set around drawing interest?

SENATOR DWORAK: No, we are talking about 2.7 million dollars and I think a priority item would be wetlands. We have lost approximately 85% of our wetlands, and if they could acquire wetlands on a willing seller, willing buyer basis, this would be their first priority. The Game Commission has been faced with the potential of acquiring land in the past but have not had the funds to do it. As you understand, before they can even buy land, they are restricted. They do not have the same privileges to buying land that you, as an individual, can because they have to go to an appraised value and then they have to hold within a certain percentage of that appraised value, while you, as an individual, can bid anything you want to for land. So what land they would acquire would be on a willing selling basis and under the same rules they have now for acquiring land but a lot of people are willing to sell marginal land to the Game Commission for the support of habitat and this bill would provide them the funds at the expense of the user, the hunter, the fisherman, the sportsman, to acquire that land.

SENATOR KIME: Nothing definite in view at this time?

SENATOR DWORAK: Pardon.

SENATOR KIME: Nothing definite in view at this time?

SENATOR DWORAK: No, sir.

PRESIDENT: Senator Rasmussen, do you want to talk on Senator Lewis' amendment? Senator Dickinson, do you want to talk on Senator Lewis' amendment or the bill? Senator Dworak, on the amendment only.

SENATOR DWORAK: Did Senator Syas wish to answer specifically to Senator Marvel?

PRESIDENT: Not on the amendment.

SENATOR DWORAK: As for the amendment and the arguments used in support of the amendment, as Senator Lewis indicated that it wasn't specific in the bill how the money would be used and part of his amendment states that the money must be used for habitat. And I understand the concern of Senator Lewis and I just want to refer everybody to page 17, section 14, LB 861, and it says very